

# Crop Summary - 2004

**2004 Crop Summary:** Utah entered its sixth year of drought with a cold streak that lasted most of January and part of February. Some areas received snow in late December and that did not melt until early March causing snow mold in winter wheat. Spring temperatures were higher than average. Higher temperatures caused snow pack to start melting early in the season.

Worsening drought conditions were first and foremost in most producers minds. Areas in Northern Utah received timely moisture throughout the summer easing some drought concerns and dwindling water supplies. After five years of drought, Utah's reservoirs were at record lows and caused concerns for a continuing drought. Some water sheds stopped delivering irrigation water in July and most irrigation water delivery was done by the middle of August.

Utah's spring was very dry until first cutting hay started. Most of Utah's first cutting received some rain damage. Despite the rain, first cutting was well ahead of 2003 and the five-year average. Most areas were able to get at least three cuttings due to timely rain and cool fall temperatures. Alfalfa yields were down from the previous year, while other hay yields were up from the previous year.

Mormon Cricket and grasshopper infestations caused major damage in some areas. New G.P.S. technology aided producers in more efficient pinpoint spraying to control and stop the spread of infected acreage. Approximately 4 million acres were damaged by the crickets, which was up from 2003.

Even with adversities such as the snow mold, drought and insect infestation, winter and spring wheat yields were up from a year ago, while corn remained unchanged.

Pasture and rangeland benefitted greatly from the spring, summer and fall showers. Some areas that had been without any measurable moisture during the summer months for years received moisture. Early spring moisture delayed producers from moving livestock to summer range. Producers took full advantage of the grass growth in lower valleys, as long as they possibly could. Early fall showers provided some much needed moisture to Utah pasture and rangeland.

## Crop Production Index (1977=100):Crops, by Commodity Grouping Utah, 1997-2004

Year	Small Grain	Hay	Fruit <sup>1</sup>	Other Crops	Total Crops
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1997	136	148	81	116	136
1998	130	151	122	105	138
1999	129	149	48	108	131
2000	101	136	127	105	125
2001	86	138	60	96	117
2002	65	124	20	87	101
2003	72	135	85	89	114
2004	54	134	78	87	110

<sup>1</sup> Fruit production index is derived from total production.